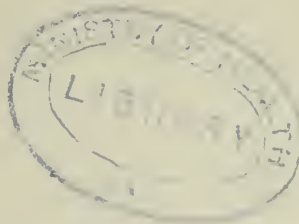


Builth Urban District
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1955.



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....Mr.E.V.Collins, M.S.I.A.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1955

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Wells Urban District for the year 1955.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 17/55 (Wales).

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Statistical Summary for the year 1955.

Area.....701 acres.
Population (Census 1951).....1708.
Population (estimated at Midsummer 1955).....1570.
Number of inhabited houses.....543.

Live Births	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate	11	13	24	
Illegitimate	1	1	2	
	12	14	26	16.5
Still Births	0	0	0	0
Deaths from all causes	10	12	22	14.0

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under 1 year.
.....Nil. Rate per 1000 live births.....Nil.

Deaths from special causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....Nil.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Two.

Area.

The Urban District of Builth Wells, which has an area of 701 acres, is situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. The district is also a holiday resort where advantage is taken of the medicinal springs in the neighbourhood.

Population. Census 1931.....1663.
Census 1951.....1708.

1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955.
1617. 1576. 1539. 1707. 1674. 1674. 1638. 1576. 1561. 1570. 1570.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 543 giving an average number of 2.8 persons per house.

| <u>Births.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1946..... | 10..... | 13..... | 23..... | 14.6 |
| 1947..... | 20..... | 14..... | 34..... | 23.3 |
| 1948..... | 11..... | 16..... | 27..... | 15.8 |
| 1949..... | 19..... | 11..... | 30..... | 17.8 |
| 1950..... | 12..... | 12..... | 24..... | 14.3 |
| 1951..... | 19..... | 10..... | 29..... | 17.7 |
| 1952..... | 14..... | 10..... | 24..... | 15.2 |
| 1953..... | 14..... | 10..... | 24..... | 15.4 |
| 1954..... | 11..... | 13..... | 24..... | 15.3 |
| 1955..... | 12..... | 14..... | 26..... | 16.5 |
| England and Wales, 1955..... | | | | 15.0 |

The birthrate was higher than the average for England and Wales, and also higher than the deathrate for the district.

Deaths. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table.

| | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1946..... | 18..... | 14..... | 32..... | 20.3 |
| 1947..... | 13..... | 12..... | 25..... | 16.2 |
| 1948..... | 10..... | 9..... | 19..... | 11.1 |
| 1949..... | 13..... | 16..... | 29..... | 17.3 |
| 1950..... | 20..... | 16..... | 36..... | 21.5 |
| 1951..... | 10..... | 10..... | 20..... | 12.2 |
| 1952..... | 14..... | 13..... | 27..... | 17.0 |
| 1953..... | 10..... | 13..... | 23..... | 14.7 |
| 1954..... | 19..... | 13..... | 32..... | 20.4 |
| 1955..... | 10..... | 12..... | 22..... | 14.0 |
| England and Wales, 1955..... | | | | 11.7 |

The deathrate for 1955 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, but lower than the birthrate for the district.

| <u>Still Births.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1946..... | 4..... | 1..... | 5..... | 3.1 |
| 1947..... | 1..... | 1..... | 2..... | 1.3 |
| 1948..... | 2..... | 0..... | 2..... | 1.1 |
| 1949..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1950..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1951..... | 2..... | 0..... | 2..... | 1.2 |
| 1952..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1953..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1954..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1955..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| England and Wales, 1955..... | | | | 23.1 |

The still birthrate is per 1000 live births and still births. The stillbirth rate for 1955 was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

| | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1946..... | 0..... | 1..... | 1..... | 43. |
| 1947..... | 0..... | 1..... | 1..... | 27. |
| 1948..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1949..... | 1..... | 0..... | 1..... | 33. |
| 1950..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1951..... | 2..... | 0..... | 2..... | 68. |
| 1952..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1953..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1954..... | 1..... | 0..... | 1..... | 41.7 |
| 1955..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| England and Wales, 1955..... | | | | 24.9 |

The infantile mortality rate was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....10. Females.....12.

| <u>Cause</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Malignant neoplasm,breast..... | 0..... | 1. |
| Other malignant neoplasms..... | 0..... | 1. |
| Leukaemia..... | 0..... | 1. |
| Coronary disease..... | 3..... | 1. |
| Other heart disease..... | 4..... | 5. |
| Bronchitis..... | 2..... | 1. |
| Other defined causes..... | 1..... | 1. |
| Accidents,non motor vehicle..... | 0..... | 1. |

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Illegitimacy.The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district during 1955 was two.

Maternal Mortality.There was no death in the year which could be attributed to pregnancy and childbirth.

Section 2.General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers.In October of the year Mr.E.V.Collins resigned his position as Sanitary Inspector to take up similar duties with another authority.For the rest of the year this position was vacant.

Laboratory Facilities.During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff,Newport,Carmarthen,Swansea,Aberystwyth,Builth and Brecon.Water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen and Cardiff whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease sas performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing and other Facilities.The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services.The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is obtainable for minor ailments,dental,eye and orthopaedic defects.Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals.The hospital needs of the residents for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by the Builth Wells Hospital.The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years.Merthyr Borough treat the patients suffering from infectious disease at Mardy Isolation Hospital. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.
For the treatment of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital,Rhondda.

Disinfection.In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3.Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply.The Town is supplied by (1)Tycapel reservoir which is an impounding reservoir to the open moorland catchment area.(2)Newry Well which derives water from a spring.(3)Hongwm Springs which is a piped supply to the Brecon Road Storage Reservoir.(4)Pantyllyn which is an upland lake and only used in case of emergency.(5)A Mobile Pump has been purchased by the Council to supplement the towns supply should occasion arise.The pump is capable of pumping far in excess of 60,000 gallons per day which will meet the needs of the community.The above sources were almost adequate during the year but it was necessary to limit the supply occasionally at night.The Council have so far rejected an invitation to join in a major scheme with neighbouring authorities but have engaged a consultant to advise on possible improvements to the present supply.The Council also supply water in bulk to two neighbouring authorities,Colwyn Rural District and Builth Rural District.

The bacteriological examinations of the water during the year were found to be satisfactory, 12 satisfactory results being obtained and 2 unsatisfactory.

Every effort is being made to maintain a pure supply of water by protecting the various sources from likelihood of contamination. Regular inspections were made of the moorland catchment area for evidence of dead sheep etc.

All houses in the district are supplied direct with a domestic piped supply. 7 houses are also supplied with a communal standpipe.

Careful attention to the amount of chlorination necessary was also given.

Number of samples taken during the year.....14.
 Number reported as satisfactory.....12.
 Number reported as unsatisfactory.....2.
 No chemical examination was made during the year.
 Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector to water supplies.....141.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but is discharged into the River Wye below the town.

The number of houses now not connected to a public sewer is 11, 10 have septic tanks and no nuisance is created. 1 other house has an earth closet.

Number of visits in connection with drainage work.....18.

Consultants have been engaged with the view of preparing a possible sewage disposal works for the town. By the end of the year the survey of the existing system had been made and plans prepared.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection of refuse. This is collected once a week by your Council staff and disposed of by controlled tipping. No tipping takes place now on the old site, a new refuse tip having been commenced at Caer Farm.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....11.
 Number of complaints investigated.....11.
 Number of premises inspected.....208.
 Number of premises revisited.....10.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....4.
 Number of statutory notices served.....0.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control made under byelaws made under Section 6, of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector.....26.
 Number of notices served.....0.

Shops Act.

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....29.
 Number of inspections made.....54.
 Number of defects found.....Nil.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Number of premises infested.....0.

Rodent Control. This work is undertaken by one of the Council's workmen. The Caer Farm refuse tip was treated twice during the year with good poison bait takes. The sewers were treated in June when there were no takes of bait.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....24.

Number of premises found infested.....21.

Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator.....1.

Number of premises treated by occupier.....20.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken during the year.

Section 4. Housing. No Council houses were built during the year but consideration was given to the erection of a further 12 houses. Two houses were completed by private enterprise. Seven applications were received for Improvement Grants under Housing Act, 1949, and all were approved.

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.

Number of houses which, on inspection, were considered unfit for human habitationNil.

No action was taken during the year under the Housing Act, 1936.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors. The result of samples taken during the year are shown below.

Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected.....18.

Number of milk samples taken.....9.

Number reported as satisfactory.....9.

Number reported as unsatisfactory.....Nil.

Fourteen samples of milk were also examined for the presence of tuberculosis with negative results in all cases.

Meat. A private slaughterhouse was licensed on the 1st. July, 1954.

The improvements carried out on these premises before licensing included the provision of electric light, construction of detention room, provision of electric boiler for hot water, a toilet room for meat inspector, covered bins for condemned meat. Number of visits to this slaughterhouse.....144.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

| | <u>Cattle</u> | <u>Calves</u> | <u>Sheep</u> | <u>Pigs</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Number killed and inspected | 24 | 36 | 843 | 247 |
| <u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | 3 | 16 | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ were condemned | 4 | - | 157 | - |
| Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or cysticerci. | 16.6 | 8.3 | 20.5 | - |

| | <u>Cattle</u> | <u>Calves</u> | <u>Sheep</u> | <u>Pigs</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| <u>T.B. Only.</u> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | 12 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B. | - | - | - | 4.8 |

Cysticercosis. Nil

Disposal. Collected by knacker.

Food Condemned during the year.

Amount of food condemned.....359 lbs.
This condemned food was in tins which ere all punctured and buried in the Council's tip.

Market Improvements. During the year the market continued to work satisfactorily as an attested market.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses)

Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....77.
Number of notices served.....0.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....7.
In the district there is 1 producer retailer and 6 retailers.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....40.
There are five of these premises in the town.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....8.
There was one fried fish shop in the town.

Byelaws under Section 15. Food and Drugs Act,1938.

The number of food premises,by type,were:- Licenced Hotels 12,
Food Shops 31, Cafes and unlicenced Hotels 8, fish and chip shops 1, and 5 bakehouses.

Section 6.Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following number of cases of notifiable disease were reported to me during the year:-

Measles.....5 cases.
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.....1 case.

The district was therefore free of any epidemic of infectious disease during the year.All the measles cases were nursed at home whilst the case of poliomyelitis was removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital.
No death was caused by the above infectious diseases.

Venereal Disease.The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital,Swansea,for the treatment of these cases.The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of cases on register at commencement of year..... | 14. |
| Number of fresh cases notified during the year..... | 1. |
| Number of cases removed as deceased..... | 0. |
| Number of cases removed from register as disease arrested..... | 0. |
| Number of cases who left the district..... | 0. |
| Number of cases left on register at end of year..... | 15. |

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in recent years is shown below:-

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1945. | 1946. | 1947. | 1948. | 1949. | 1950. | 1951. | 1952. | 1953. | 1954. | 1955. |
| 2. | 3. | 3. | 1. | 4. | 4. | 3. | 2. | 3. | 0. | 1. |

~~This is the first year, since I came to your district early in 1940, that no fresh cases of tuberculosis have been notified.~~

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.

